1 <u>ABSTRACT</u>

2 An apparatus for automatically opening a 3 swinging restroom door is provided. The apparatus 4 comprises an actuator, a control unit, and a power 5 assisted drive mechanism that can be connected to an existing door closing mechanism. The actuator 7 comprises a proximity sensor and further comprises 8 a series of iconic symbols corresponding to 9 predetermined proximity zones. The control unit is 10 in electronic communication with the actuator with 11 which signals are exchanged. The power assisted 12 drive mechanism is in electronic communication 13 with the control unit and can be connected to an 14 existing door closing mechanism wherein the 15 actions of the door closing mechanism are reversed 16 and the door is opened.

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